

Campinas, 17 January 2024

Professor Yasuhiro Nakazawa
Director of Research Center for Thermal and Entropic Science
Graduate School of Science
Osaka University
Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

Dear Prof. Nakazawa,

It is with great pleasure that I write this summary of my activities during my last visit to Osaka in July 2023. This was my second somewhat longer visit to Osaka, the first one in 2019 when I had the opportunity to stay around 45 days in January and February. This second visit was slightly shorter, but at least as pleasant and rewarding as the first one. Staying there during Summer allowed us to know different aspects of Japan (of course, with a weather almost warmer than we experience here in Brazil) and visit nice places nearby Osaka.

This time, we have decided to offer a postgraduate course with a different topic than the one I taught in 2019, focusing on surfactant colloids, entitled : Surfactant assembly - thermodynamics and structures. I think the decision was right as we had a larger and broader audience, still covering aspects related to thermodynamics and use of calorimetry that are central to the activities of your Research Center. I was particularly impressed by the presence of a large fraction of international students, which I think reflects the relevance of Osaka University for the nearby countries and that brought a different perspective to the course.

From the students' participation and from the evaluation that they had to complete, I think this was a successful enterprise, which I enjoyed very much and I look forward to another opportunity to repeat it in the near future.

At the end of my stay, there was the International Conference on Chemical Thermodynamics, in which I was delighted to participate presenting one of the key lectures focused on Thermodynamics of polymer and surfactant solutions, another topic of activity of our research group at UNICAMP, and which was very well received by the participants. Having been involved with ICCTs for many years, and having had the duty and pleasure of organizing the Conference of 2012 here in Brazil, I was very satisfied with the outcome of this 2023 ICCT. We were all worried about the effect that the longer pause between events due to the pandemics would have on returning these meetings. The success of this second conference held in Osaka, with an impressive number of participants with a truly international representation, left all of us confident that ICCT is back on track and should continue strong in the coming years.

I had to return to Brazil right after the Conference due to the beginning of our courses, but I returned with the sense of accomplishment well justifying the long trip. I have already done so, but I would like to repeat it here. I would like to warmly thank you and your colleagues for the kind invitation to return to Osaka. I felt rewarded for the opportunity of teaching and interacting with students there. I should also thank, and congratulate, you and the team responsible for the organization of ICCT 2023 for your wonderful and successful performance, and for inviting me to share this occasion. Moreover, I should also thank the support we received from members of different organizations of the Osaka University which took care of all aspects related to our travel and stay, which ensured that we could enjoy very much the period there. We will surely miss the people and the place, but we look forward to meeting you all again, hopefully soon.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Watson Loh
Institute of Chemistry
University of Campinas – UNICAMP
wloh@unicamp.br